



**Future Group on Travel Intelligence and Border Management
Outcome of the 1st Workshop – 25 & 26 September 2019**

Introduction

On 25 & 26 September 2019 the first workshop of the Future Group on Travel Intelligence and Border Management, jointly organised by Frontex and Europol, was held at the Headquarters of Frontex in Warsaw. This report presents the outcome of that workshop, along with the related highlights of the discussions.

Main objective of the meeting

The intention for this first workshop was to identify key topics in the wide spectrum of border management, travel intelligence and migration, that would qualify for in-depth assessment of new operational opportunities for cross-border cooperation between competent authorities. Especially the recent and on-going legal initiatives to strengthen border management and security were expected to offer such opportunities. Based on the identified topics, the in-depth assessment and elaboration of operational concepts can be scheduled and prepared for the next workshops.

Concepts identified for further elaboration

- Whilst the EU information systems have been designed mostly in isolation, the end-user perspective – particularly for border control purposes – would preferably see a more person-centric form of data management. This makes it easier to assess the complete set of information available on an individual, which builds up gradually. The integrated presentation of information should include the recording of any specifics that were noted throughout the border continuum, i.e. before the border crossing, at the border and in some cases after the border crossing.

Further elaboration in the form of one or more **use cases** at one of the next workshops is intended.

- Considering the increasing amount of information that is collected and processed in the context of border management, there is a need for a prior coordination function in a back office in support of frontline border guards. This could serve as a filtering function, highlighting the persons of elevated interest and the action suggested. This would allow the border guard in the very limited time at his/her disposal, to focus the attention where needed most.

Further elaboration in the form of one or more **use cases** at one of the next workshops is intended.

- Considering that the identification of unknowns by means of targeting, screening or other forms of risk management is applied in various parts of the security and border management landscape, the idea has surfaced to promote the sharing of best practices and possibly also of targeting rules and related intelligence. The possibilities of interconnecting targeting along the border management continuum should also be looked at.

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**Document made partially accessible
to the public on:**

07 SEP 2020



Further elaboration in the form of one or more **use cases** at one of the next workshops is intended.

- Notwithstanding the main focus of the Future Group, which is to maximize the operational benefits from the recently proposed or adopted legal framework, several suggestions were made for extending access to existing or new data sources, including the following ones:
 - o Creation of an (ECRIS-like) index for traveling dangerous delinquents, including convicts of child abuse and terrorism;
 - o Access for border guards to PNR data;
 - o More attention and possibilities for identity management in regard to EU citizens, including the use of biometrics;
 - o A hit/no hit (ADEP-like) cross-check possibility against national border management systems of other countries which could also facilitate the development of the envisaged ETIAS watchlist;
 - o Access for police and judicial cooperation to national border management systems that record licence plates of vehicles that cross extra- and intra-Schengen border.

Further specification of the access needs is intended to be conducted at one of the next workshops as part of a **mapping exercise**, also taking into account the related workflows for access and information exchange.

- Discussions highlighted the need to have a comprehensive assessment of the possible links between data systems, in particular to reflect on the sensible choice of channels for the follow up. This would also apply when the result of searches point to identity management issues and links to different identities of the person in various systems.

Taking into account other discussions and fora where the links between systems and cooperation channels are discussed, possibly a business oriented **mapping exercise** could be conducted in view of offering an exhaustive and reasoned input to those more formal deliberations.

- Without the necessity of further legislative measures, the current possibilities for combining the work of investigators, border forces and customs can already be tested in practice. To this end, Europol and Frontex can seek to support one or more cross-border investigations in promoting the involvement of border management functions, including the use of watchlisting and targeting.

To test the existing possibilities for strengthen cooperation between investigations and border management functions an **operational pilot** is being considered.

Other topics of relevance

- Ideas and requirements for the organisational design of the new border management and travel intelligence functions at national level should be recorded for consideration.

- [Redacted]





- Resource implications of the implementation of new capabilities deserve due attention, so to ensure that the envisaged results can effectively be achieved.
- The human factor in border checks, detecting particularities in the behavior of travelers, should be maintained at least at a basic level.
- Due care and attention has to be given to data quality in the systems and the related processes.
- It is worth considering to design a common user interface, possibly in connection to the person-centric form of data management concept and the back office coordination function.
- Timely attention is required for the dimension of training and the sharing of best practices.

Attendance

The Workshop was attended by representatives from EU Agencies and Member States from varying professional backgrounds and competent authorities. Aim for future Workshops is to also have participation from the European Commission, of which the intended representatives were unfortunately prevented from attending, and from Customs services, so to have a complete, multidisciplinary coverage of all relevant dimensions.

Further information

This first Workshop is part of a series, aimed at identifying operational opportunities stemming from recent policy developments related to security, border management and interoperability at EU level. Further information can be obtained by contacting:

- [REDACTED] at Frontex via [REDACTED] or
- [REDACTED] at Europol via [REDACTED]

